



The WITNESS

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Troy, Michigan 48098

March 2017

Mother Susan's
Musings



Life is all about change and growth. People come and people go. Life changes, our jobs change, our families change, our children grow, but what always remains the same is that all of us are part of God's family.

Here is where we journey together and know one another. Here is where we laugh and cry together. Here is where we celebrate and mourn together. *Here is where we are known by the One who "created us and through whom we have our being."* Here is where we are always welcome.



Chinese symbol for love

Making a Joyful Noise

On Sunday Feb. 26, we bid a temporary farewell to dear Connie Jose as she and Sandy finally get to head south for a couple of months. I am so grateful to her for stepping back into the leadership of our music, from late October until now. And I'm delighted that a more recent addition to our parish and choir, Suzanne (Sue) Gore, will take over the reins starting Ash Wednesday.

Are we still searching for a new Director of Music? I am. But I want to find the right person for the work we want him or her to do. And at present, that's not entirely clear to me. Church music has always been a big part of my personal life, my professional skill-set, and how I plan our worship together. With the risk of repeating myself, let me tell you my story since it's been a few years.

I was baptized and grew up at Christ Church in Grosse Pointe, where music was (and still is) a huge part of parish life. Some people thought (and still think) that it takes too much money and attention to run such a program - girls' choir, boys' choir, and adults paid and unpaid; plus lots of special events like concerts and major choral presentations. For instance, Brahms' *Requiem* will be sung there, in German, on Palm Sunday afternoon - after a full morning of palms-and-passion worship.

As a girl chorister, we practiced twice a week and sang at least one service on Sunday. A lot of time was demanded of all the musicians, and although it was a pain to schedule one's week around choir rehearsals, I came to believe that the results were worth it. I was taught that not only our choir director but God expected our best effort! Why? To glorify

God was both praise and a form of stewardship; and the choir led and enhanced the congregation's praise and worship. The scriptures we read, especially the psalms, supported those lessons: check out especially Psalms 84, 92, 96, 101, 111, 150.

Now, my childhood idea of God hanging out in the rafters on Sundays, smiling when we sang and noticing when we dozed off, is not exactly what I believe now. But it's not completely off base. The joy has just moved closer, to the Spirit that is within me and each one of us. Praising God, singing our gratitude for life, gets us out of our navel-gazing tendencies. It makes me a little sad to see people not opening their mouths or even their hymnals, during a rousing hymn to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Don't worry about your tone quality, just make a joyful noise!

A Choir-Director and Organist should be a person able to motivate and support everyone, not just the choir, in doing just that. In my experience as a lifelong Episcopalian and church music-maker, it's worth it to find someone called and ably-gifted to do just that. We've been blessed so far with wonderful leaders. What, and who, comes next? Tell me your stories and hopes for hearing and singing music in church. How important is music to you? What gets your heart stirring on Sunday? We owe each other, and God, the joyful noises of praise.

Tuning in,



Around the Parish

March Lectionary

March 5—Lent 1
Gen 2:15-27; 3: 1-7
Psalm 21
Rom 5: 12-19
Matt 4: 1-11

March 12—Lent 2
Gen 12: 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17

March 19—Lent 3
Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42

March 26: Lent 4
1 Sam 16: 1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41

Seeking the Sacred

Plan on a Lenten experience at the Detroit Institute of Arts on **Saturday, March 11.**

The complimentary docent-guided tour of sacred art appropriate for the Lenten season begins at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy lunch at the Cafe DIA at your own expense following the tour.

Join your fellow parishioners in a car pool from St. Stephen's at 9:45 a.m. Note that there is a \$7.00 charge per car at the parking lot located behind the museum. Sign up in the gathering area for a time of appreciation and wonder during our Lenten journey.

Contact Kathryn Hassel or Norma Ross for more information.

rossmail@comcast.net

A New Vestry

Dear friends,
St. Stephens is a special place to you my friends, my family, and to me.

Thank you for entrusting me to the shared responsibility of the parish, as a Vestry member and now as Senior Warden. I am lucky to serve with wonderful dedicated people. I am grateful to past and continuing Vestry, and welcome to all new members.

Rob Redmer as Junior Warden, Karol Sprague as Clerk, Scott Armstrong, Alan Giles, Justin Wojas, & Jackie Ingersoll.

We recently had a wonderful get together dinner and an informative Saturday session. I look forward to a blessed year ahead.

Yours in Christ,

-Alice Moss

Please feel free to contact anyone of us. A new list with contact information is posted on the Vestry board (across from kitchen).

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed weekly for 1) Thursday morning bulletin stuffing, hymn boards and church cleanup (1 hour), 2) Watering and fertilizing plants in the Gathering Area (15 minutes), 3) EM for the Saturday 4:30 pm service (1 hour).

We are sad to say that our dear friends and faithful parishioners Robert & Lynette Cline (who have helped with these tasks) are moving to Illinois. We thank them for their dedication to St. Stephen's and wish them happiness in their new home.

A farewell brunch is planned for them on Wednesday, March 8, during our weekly Bible Study, of which they were faithful members. Join us if you'd like, about 10:30 am!

Alice Brandon continues to help weekly and could use a couple of assistants. Please contact the church office if you are interested and available beginning in March.

Cathy Hoffman
Parish Administrator

Painted Prayers

Come on by at 1:00 pm on Mondays in Lent, for a couple hours of spiritual creativity. (Or creative spirituality, if you prefer.) Join Mother Susan in the parish hall for a short meditation, a cup of tea, and the opportunity to respond with paint, charcoal, pencil or any other medium that looks interesting to you! We'll clean up at 3 pm. All are welcome.



Susan



Church Notes

Now Appearing

Our Lenten Evening series kicks off on March 8. Soup supper is at 6, then at 7 we will head into the multi-purpose (choir) room for our first talk, via DVD, on "The Spiritual Journey." The series of classes is called "Catching Fire, Becoming Flame" and features Fr. Albert Haase, OFM (Order of Friars Minor, a.k.a. the Franciscans). He comes across as a gentle, holy person who wants each person to experience God through prayer – and he is ready to help. We will learn from his insights and each other's, following the video segment.

You can also purchase his accompanying book (available for \$15), which provides details and more methods of prayer than what we will try on Wednesdays.

Sign up in the Gathering Area to attend and if possible, to co-host one of the dinners. Food has been purchased, we just need three people per night to set up, serve the soup, and lead the clean-up. You won't miss any of our class.

*Mother Susan, Series Leader;
Norma Ross, Soup Organizer
Kathryn Hassel, Soup Organizer*



What's a Shrove?

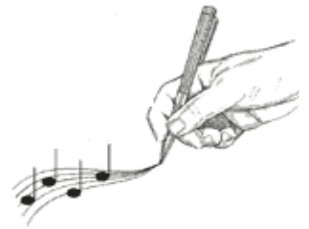
Shrove Tuesday originated during the Middle Ages. As in contemporary times, food items like meats, fats, eggs, milk, and fish were regarded as restricted during Lent. To keep such food from being wasted, many families would have big feasts on Shrove Tuesday in order to consume those items that would inevitably become spoiled during the next forty days.

The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday began. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras.

The name "Shrove Tuesday" is derived from the word "shrive", which means to confess and receive absolution. The name denotes a period of cleansing, wherein a person brings their lusts and appetites under subjection through abstention and self-sacrifice.

From the Weekly Connection

February 21, 2017



One Voice

Please join a remarkable group—the St. Stephen's Choir.

As we look for a permanent replacement for our choir director, come on Thursdays and join the singing!



From the Back Pew

Senior Moments—A Scary Story

A thief stole my identity and charged \$11,000 dollars at Macys and another \$5,000 dollars at Home Depot. A while ago, in 2013, PNC Bank, Discover Card, Barclay Bank and American Express contacted me about new checking accounts they said I had applied for.

No, I assured them, I had not done that. I thought that ended the matter. Then in March, 2016, Hawaiian Airlines Bank sent me a notice about a new checking account in my name. Thereafter, notices came from PNC, Fifth-Third Bank, Wells Fargo, and Citibank,—some by phone, others in the mail.

All except Citibank had denied the credit card applications as fraudulent. Citibank, however, credit card provider for Macys and Home Depot, revealed that cards had been issued and surprised me with the huge balances. When would I like to send payment, they asked. Needless to say, several serious conversations with the fraud department of Citibank ensued and I learned that the credit cards issued were in my name and with my social security number, but that the address given by the applicant was not mine, nor were the card numbers the same as legal credit cards from Macys and Home Depot I had in my name.

I closed all credit accounts and notified my bank of the illegal activity. I made a police report about the identity theft attempt in 2013 and again in 2016. I notified the Social Security office to make sure that the thief could not assign my direct-deposited monthly payment to another bank. I placed

a fraud alert on my credit reports and contacted all three of the credit bureaus.

No further activity since the beginning of 2017...until two weeks ago when I was visited by the Birmingham Police Dept. A person living at the same address as the bogus credit card applications used my name and withdrew \$500 from the bank account of a Birmingham resident. The police are investigating and I am praying that the perpetrator is apprehended.

How does this happen? You might be surprised how easy it is for a thief to get your personal information. The Federal Trade Commission lists some common ways thieves can get your ID:

- **Dumpster diving**—finding info in the trash.
- **Skimming**—stealing credit/debit card numbers using special storage device when you process your card.
- **Phishing**— phone or mail scams to get you to reveal personal information.
- **Changing your address**—diverting your billing statements to another location by completing a “change of address” form.
- **Plain stealing**—wallets, purses, mail, pre-approved credit offers, new checks, tax information, records from employers or institutions, such as doctors or hospital records departments.

Senior moments—continued on page 5

one World



Inside the Parish Walls

Senior Moment—Cont.

What can you do about it? ? ? ?

Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information.

Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your card. Only give it out if absolutely necessary or ask to use another identifier.

Don't give personal information on the phone unless you know the person asking for it.

Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails. Use anti-spyware, firewalls, and anti-virus software.

Don't use obvious passwords, like the last four digits of your Social Security number.

Keep personal information in a safe place at home.

Be Alert to signs that demand attention:

- Bills that do not arrive as expected.
- Unexpected credit cards or account statements.
- Denials of credit for no apparent reason.
- Calls or letters about purchases you did not make.

Be Aware of Credit Bureaus—Three nationwide consumer reporting companies.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Information in this report provided by the Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

Online: ftc.gov/idtheft

Phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TTY, 1-866-653-4261

Norma Ross

Save Your Cans & Bottles

The Sunday School needs your help to donate an animal to their needy brothers and sisters for Easter. Collection will be Palm Sunday so start hanging on to your "returnables" now!

Thanks!

Ken Fisher



March 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Please check the website for the most up-to-date calendar of events
www.ststephenstroy.org

One Family

Bible Study

For all who are interested in weekly Bible Study, the "no experience necessary" bible study is held in the Bishop Emrich lounge, each Wednesday at 10 am. Newcomers are always welcome! Join Mother Susan each week and explore!



March Birthdays

Cheryl Walter	5
Patrick Roberts	5
Elizabeth Roberts....	6
Peyton El-Zoghby.....	6
David Burean	8
Margaret Brandon ...	9
Judy McQuiston.....	9
Bryan El-Zoghby.....	9
Michelle Pickering..	13
Pat Wojas.....	14
Alex Morley.....	14
Jaime Dutil	15
Mary Boldt	18
Ed DeCiantis.....	18
Jane Frank.....	19
Bob Wolf	19
Georgiana Badalow..	20
Gillian Grubb.....	20
Alice Brandon.....	21
Cindy Bailey	22
Jerry Nolan.....	24
Conner Mullin.....	24
Bill Martin.....	25
Lucas Allen.....	26
Gwen Kirby.....	27
Mary Bishop.....	27
Diana Karlsson.....	27
Jackie Ingersoll	29
Robert Cline	29
Caroline Gratsch	19
Lynn Nunn.....	31
Martha Szott.....	31
Jacob Pincura.....	31
Jesse Pincura.....	31

More Inside the Parish Walls

ERDDoes a World of Good

Lent is a time we are urged to fast (give something up, especially food), with a purpose. The prophet Isaiah urged us on Ash Wednesday, saying that God prefers a fast that looses the bonds of injustice, lets the oppressed go free, shares bread with the hungry and a house with the homeless.

On the first weekend in Lent (March 4 and 5), we will lift up the work of ERD – *Episcopal Relief and Development* – which provides these services in our name, on our behalf, through our generosity.

The Sunday School is learning about ERD’s animal-giving program, and each child will have a donations box to take home. The kids will also be in charge of taking a weekly “Noisy Offering” at 10:00, asking for your pocket-change.

We’ll put the special “ERD Offering” container in church at 4:30 and 8:00 too, since we don’t want to deprive anyone of helping them make their goal – paying for several farm animals to be given to families in poor areas of the world.

Gwen

It’s a Day-After-St. Patty’s Day Party!

Saturday, March 18 at 5:30pm

In St. Stephen’s fine Fellowship Hall featuring...

The Shannon Irish Dancers!

- . Music, Fun & Games
- . Potluck Dinner
- . Please sign up for a dish to pass
- . Beer Wine Pop will be provided



We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Ron Converse
Thelma DePew
Cathlynn Duncan
Betty Feighner
Gary Feighner
Ron Gural
Daniel Jacobson
Charmel Maki
Betsy McLachlan
Larry Nunn
Zoey Rose
Charles Saylor
Joe Simler
Greg Thompson
Joyce Vance
Tom Vida
Kyle J
Beth L

Those in the Armed Services

Stephen Armstrong—nephew of Linda Pierce
Rachel Barton—granddaughter of Jane Frank
Nathan Cremeans—grandson of Barb Whitaker
Tom Fydrych—known to Rob Redmer
Stephanie Herderich—member of St. Stephen's
Ian L'Hommedieu—godson of Linda Pierce
Stephen L'Hommedieu—godson of Linda Pierce
Kyle Rogowski—nephew of Ken & Kris Fuhr
Jim Sands—grandson of Sharon Sands
Clayton Ulrich—nephew of Jeralyn Burrell

Brandon Church

Kyle Church

Grandsons of Ed and Elaine Church & Nephew of Amy Church

Benjamin Church

Great Nephew of Ed and Elaine Church & Cousin of Amy Church

We constantly review and renew the lists for prayers. Please call the church office, or e-mail us at office@ststephenstroy.org, to ask that a relative or friend be added to those in need of our church's prayers.

These Parish Families

3/5 Kristina, David, Gillian & Molly Grubb
Claire Grutta
3/12 Paul, Melissa, Paul, Cathryn & Mackenzie
Hardy
Kathryn Hassel
3/19 Michael, Kathleen & Kristin Herderich
Chris & Mark Herfurth
3/26 Bob & Cathy Hoffman
Joe & Jan Hopper

The Departed

Ken Williams

Father in law of Susan Anslow Williams

March

Anniversaries

Lani & Jerry
Nolan.....2
Joe & Jan
Hopper.....9
John & Karen
Morley.....21
Ronny & Silvia
Karlsson.....25
Tom & Marilyn
Borowski.....30
John & Debbi
Pincura.....31



How to Contact Us

Church Office: (Open 9:30-1:30 weekdays)

Tel: 248-641-8080 Fax: 248-641-8067

Cathy Hoffman, Parish Administrator/Accountant
office@ststephenstroy.org

The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams—Rector

Cell: 716-397-0997 (voice or text)

Home: 248-732-7955

rector@ststephenstroy.org

The Rev. Jim Maxwell, Retired Priest in Residence

jimmardi@wowway.com

Sue Gore —Interim Music Director

musicdirector@ststephenstroy.org

Ken Fuhr—Director of Christian Formation

formation@ststephenstroy.org

Jim Trask, Treasurer

Cathy Hoffman, Assistant to the Treasurer

treasurer@ststephenstroy.org

Church Website: Ken Fuhr, Webmaster

www.ststephenstroy.org (password: coffeeshour)

The Witness, Liz Sinkovich, Editor

witness@ststephenstroy.org

E-mail, bring to church or fax: 248-641-8067

Weekly Services:

Sat. 4:30 p.m.

Informal Service

Sun., 8 a.m.

Early Eucharist

Sun, 10 a.m.

Eucharist with Music, Nursery and Sunday School

If you have e-mail, you can receive our newsletter faster! Please send your e-mail address to office@ststephenstroy.org. Thank you in advance for helping us with our continued effort to....THINK GREEN!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

5500 North Adams Road

Troy, MI 48098

Please remember St. Stephen's in your will

Change Service Requested

Dated Material

MARCH 2017